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tem 119 of the preliminary list*
MPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE
GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL
COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES BY THE
SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE
INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ASSOCIATED
WITH THE UNITED NATIONS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-fourth year

Letter dated 28 March 1989 from the Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 10 November 1988 from the ermanent Representative of Portugal conveying a letter addressed to the ecretary-General concerning East Timor for circulation as an official document of he Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the eclaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, hich was subsequently issued on 15 March 1989 as document A/AC.109/981.

In the interest of setting the record straight with regard to the untenable ontents of the aforementioned letter, I should like to state the following.

Firstly, the incontrovertible facts are that the decolonisation of East Timor as resolved over a decade ago, on 17 July 1976, in accordance with United Nations esolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV) of 14 and 15 December 1960 respectively. As at hat date, the people of East Timor exercised the right of self-determination by

* A/44/50/Rev.1.

opting for independence through integration with the Republic of Indonesia, a prerogative recognized by resolution 1541 (XV). Consequently Portugal's assertions about the decolonization process in East Timor are without foundation.

Secondly, in the light of the reality that East Timor is and has been an integral part of the Republic of Indonesia for the past 13 years, my Government rejects the attempt by Portugal to interject itself into a series of long-standing discussions between the Republic of Indonesia and Australia concerning a comprehensive set of issues surrounding the delimitation of continental shelf boundaries of their sovereign States, specifically between the Indonesian Province of East Timor and Northern Australia, and known as the "Timor Gap". As is known, those meetings between Indonesia and Australia have been taking place for over 10 years, since early 1979, when an agreement was reached between their respective Governments to undertake discussions on the Timor Gap continental shelf boundary question. Over the course of the past decade, 10 formal meetings have been held as well as 4 smaller committee meetings. Moreover, as a consequence of those negotiations, agreement was reached in 1982 on a Memorandum of Understanding concerning the establishment of a fisheries boundary in the Timor Gap, including provisions for surveillance and enforcement. Similarly, last year Indonesia and Australia achieved a provisional arrangement for the establishment of a zone of co-operation in the Timor Gap, pending agreement on the delimitation of a permanent continental shelf boundary in the area. This further agreement is yet another indication of the positive bilateral relations existing between the Republic of Indonesia and Australia, which will facilitate co-operation to the mutual benefit of their peoples, including in East Timor, by contributing to their accelerated development through expanding economic activity, including investments and business ventures involving foreign investors, as well as the promotion of the trade and tourism industries.

Thirdly, based on all of the foregoing, the ill-conceived and specious allegations as contained in the Portuguese letter cannot but be considered an unacceptable interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign State.

Finally, contrary to Portugal's attempts to cast aspersions upon Indonesia, it is most gratifying that, in addition to Australia and other countries in the region, more and more States, including at the United Nations, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and other international and regional forums, have come to recognize and appreciate that today the East Timorese are enjoying fully the political freedoms and economic and social progress that are their birthright under the constitutional guarantees accorded to every citizen and to every province of the Republic of Indonesia. If Portugal also were to consider objectively the political, social and economic realities as pertaining to East Timor, it too would recognize that it is by respecting the decision of the people of East Timor to live in peace and freedom in unity with Indonesia that their genuine wishes and their basic human rights and interests can best be served.

I should be grateful if you would kindly arrange for the present letter to be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 119 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nana S. SUTRESNA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative